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## Legacy - November 2013

South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology--University of South Carolina

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UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
College of Arts and Sciences

VOL. 17, No. 2, NOVEMBER 2013

# Legacy

South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology

## Fields of Conflict Battlefield Conference to Be Held in Columbia, March 2014

By Steven D. Smith

On March 11 through 16, 2014, archaeologists from across the globe will gather at the Marriott in Columbia, South Carolina, to exchange research and findings in the Eighth Biennial International Conference on battlefield archaeology, entitled *Fields of Conflict*. The final agenda will be set in January, 2014, however, the current conference plans are for a pre-conference tour to Charleston on March 11, a battlefield preservation workshop on March 12, and the Fields of Conflict Conference

running March 13 through 15. A post conference tour to Cowpens and Kings Mountain will wrap up the gathering on Sunday, March 16. The battlefield preservation workshop and Fields of Conflict Conference are sponsored by the National Park Service, American Battlefield Protection Program and the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. More information can be found at [www.fieldsofconflict2014.com](http://www.fieldsofconflict2014.com) or by contacting the conference program coordinator, Steven D. Smith at [sds@sc.edu](mailto:sds@sc.edu)

Thank you for your generous support of the Archaeological Research Trust (ART) Endowment Fund and the printing of *Legacy*. Please send donations in the enclosed envelope to Nena Powell Rice USC/SCIAA, 1321 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC 29208, indicating whether you want to continue receiving *Legacy* and include your email address. All contributions are appreciated. Please visit our website at: <http://www.artsandsciences.sc.edu/sciaa> to download past issues, and let the Editor know if you wish to receive *Legacy* by email.

Thank You! Nena Powell Rice, Editor,  
(803) 576-6573 Office, ([nrice@sc.edu](mailto:nrice@sc.edu)).

**Fields of Conflict**  
**2014**  
Eighth Biennial Conference on Battlefield  
Archaeology  
Columbia, South Carolina  
March 11 through 16, 2014.  
Call for papers, registration, and information:  
[www.fieldsofconflict2014.com](http://www.fieldsofconflict2014.com)

The South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, College of Arts and Sciences, University of South Carolina, and the American Battlefield Protection Program, National Park Service, invite battlefield archaeologists, preservationists, historians, and the public to the eighth Biennial International Conference on Battlefield Archaeology and "Preserving Fields of Conflict," a battlefield preservation workshop. Location: Marriott, 1200 Eastman Street, Columbia, S.C. 29201.

For questions or further information about the conference contact Steven D. Smith, USC/SCIAA, USC's [sds@sc.edu](mailto:sds@sc.edu). For questions about the workshop contact Kathryn McManey, NADPP NPPI, [Kathryn.McManey@nps.gov](mailto:Kathryn.McManey@nps.gov), or visit [www.battlefieldpreservation.org](http://www.battlefieldpreservation.org). Fields of Conflict Advisory Committee: Doug Scott (University of Nebraska), Lawrence Wright (South Carolina University), Tony Pollard, (University of Chicago), Charles Cobb (University of South Carolina).

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# Director's Note

By Steven D. Smith  
SCIAA Associate Director

Next time you see Al Goodyear be sure and congratulate him for receiving the University of South Carolina's *Breakthrough Leadership in Research Award* for 2013. This award, presented by the Office of Vice President for Research, recognizes outstanding researchers who not only have made a significant impact in their field, but also have had a positive impact on the community beyond USC. Al was recognized for the literally hundreds of volunteers and students who have gained archaeological experience working with him over his 40 year career of research, especially at the Topper Site. Only eight USC faculty received this award. This is the award's inaugural year, so all future recipients will stand on Al's shoulders. Congrats Al!

On a less happy note, underwater archaeologist Carl Naylor is retiring. (Less happy for us obviously, but Carl couldn't stop giggling last time I saw him.) Carl came aboard the USS SCIAA in 1987. That was only a year after I was hired as Deputy State Archaeologist. At that time, SCIAA was without a Head of the Underwater Archaeological Management Program. I was assigned the dubious honor of running the program until we could find a new Head. Except for the fact that I didn't know port from starboard, this made sense in the mind of our inestimable former director. Carl was one of our first hires and became one of the best. His vast array of skills became clear to me when the Institute got involved in excavating a portion of the historic Santee Canal. Unbeknownst to me, the excavation included as part of the contract, the dredging of some two to three feet of mud filling several hundred feet of the canal lock. That little detail somehow slipped by me during the planning meetings. I first learned of it when a SC Parks Department official called me to his office, closed his door, and asked me point blank, exactly how we were going to dredge the lock. Dredge the lock! SCIAA! I assured him that it was no problem, we could handle it. Then I staggered back to SCIAA, whimpering, to find out exactly how we would remove literally tons of mud. Somehow Carl, Joe Beatty, Jodi Simmons, and the rest of the team created a pumping system to flush the mud out of the lock. Carl's improvisation saved my job.

We all know Carl is a diver, mechanic, and maritime historian; one who is quick with a charming (O.K. maybe sarcastic) *bon mot* for any occasion. He is also, like the rest of the SCIAA dive team, fearless.

During the 1996 H.L. Hunley expedition, SCIAA divers were attached to a National Park Service dive team. Used to clear blue waters and romantic shores, park service divers were a bit tentative about the jellyfish filled black water off Charleston Harbor. But since they were in charge, and they were the park service after all, the SCIAA team watched day after day as the 'first string' complained about the dive conditions. After idling on the dive boat for several days while the frustration mounted, Carl, Joe Beatty, and Jim Spirek politely informed the park service that it would not get better. Then they stepped into their dive suits and into the water. From that point on, the project preceded apace.

Space and propriety requires me to say no more. To catch a glimpse of what it's like as a SCIAA diver, I strongly encourage you to pick up a copy of Carl's book, *The Day the Johnboat Went Up the Mountain*, which relates just some of his adventures working for the SCIAA over the last 28 years. Then buy him a beer, or six, and listen to what really happened. Carl will still be working with us, but I will miss Carl's preferred method of announcing his presence at SCIAA's HQ; a clipped 'Howdy!' that projects from ground floor, up the stairs to my office.



Carl Naylor at the helm of the SCIAA boat.  
(Photo courtesy of Ashley Deming)



# Arkhaios Film Festival Premieres on Hilton Head Island

By Charles Cobb

Given the spectrum of film festivals out there, one could say that the Arkhaios Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Film Festival lies somewhere between the laid-back, denim cool of Sundance and the haute couture pretensions of Cannes. So it was that a medley of scruffy archaeologists, avocational historians, retirees with an avid interest in ethnography, and working professionals comprised the attendees of this inaugural film event in Hilton Head. The brainchild of Jean Guilleaux, a longtime supporter of archaeology in South Carolina and regular Topper site volunteer, films began rolling on October 24th and continued through the 26th, 2013.

The festival focused on documentaries related to Southeastern history, ethnography, and archaeology, balanced by a number of films covering similar themes throughout the world. Most of these movies have won significant cinematic awards. I won't provide an overview of all of them, but will say that they were alternately thought provoking, funny, poignant, and sad. From a historical perspective, I should point out that some of the earliest documentaries are centered on anthropological topics. Particularly notable is the work by Robert J. Flaherty, who released the well-known *Nanook of the North* in 1922, as well as other documentaries in the '20s and '30s (the fact that he staged various scenes in these movies has embroiled them in some controversy, but they are classics nonetheless).

Each day featured four to six films, with a slate of movies on South Carolina heritage appearing on the first day of the festival. At the close of each of the three days, filmgoers were asked to rate their favorite of the afternoon. The Day 1 winner was *The 200 Year Old Computer*, an exploration of the fascinating Antikythera Mechanism. This unusual mechanical tool is over 2,000 years old and is attributed to the Greek Hellenistic period. Experts debate whether it was an astrolabe,

mechanical model of the solar system, or astronomical clock. Although scientists are split over its function, they are unanimous that this is one of the more amazing artifacts of the Classical world.

The audience favorite from Day 2 was *Mi Chacra*. Here the camera followed a somewhat exhausting emotional journey, trailing the life of a young Peruvian farmer and his ambitions to make a better life for his wife and young son. The title refers to his Quechua Indian background ("Chacra" is Quechua for "land"), and his mixed loyalty between a commitment to his family's farm and the potential for a better life in the city.

With some parochial pride I can say that the third day honors went to *Discovering Dave: Spirit Captured in Clay*, co-produced by George (Buddy) Wingard, one of our colleagues among the contingent of Savannah River Site archaeologists. Probably one of the more

exciting discoveries ever made by SCIAA archaeologists is an Edgefield ceramic vessel signed by the enslaved potter Dave Drake. The pots of this master craftsman have worldwide renown, particularly those specimens featuring his sayings and poems. Buddy's film uses the fragmentary remains of the only Dave pot found in an archaeological setting to reconstruct the life of a man whose genius allowed him to transcend the physical and spiritual shackles of Southern slavery.

Did I mention the Arkhaios Film Festival was free? When you also factor in the opportunity to immerse yourself in fieldwork without breaking a sweat—in fact, you get to replace trowel and screen with popcorn and a soda—this has got to be one of the best archaeological and historical experiences around. Kudos—and a *Palmetto d'Or*—to Jean Guilleaux for introducing this terrific event to our state. We look forward to the sequel next year.



Mary Lou Brewton, one of the organizers of the festival and George "Buddy" Wingard, the producer of *Discovering Dave: Spirit Captured in Clay*, with the Dave pot found in an archaeological context on the Savannah River Site. (Photo courtesy of Mary Lou Brewton)

# Research Division

## Recent Research at Fort Motte 2013

By James Legg and Steve Smith

Regular readers of *Legacy* will recall that we have conducted several seasons of fieldwork on the Fort Motte battlefield since 2004. During the winter of 2012-2013, we spent several days conducting systematic metal detector survey in outlying areas that we had not previously searched. The goal was to locate the campsites occupied by the British, Hessian, and Loyalist militia garrison of the post prior to the American siege of May 6-12, 1780. Previous work in the immediate vicinity of Fort Motte had not revealed convincing evidence for any such camps, and we had concluded that they must have been located at some distance from the fort. We ultimately found artifact scatters indicating two, discrete 18<sup>th</sup> century military camps, but neither assemblage was particularly diagnostic. The ammunition we recovered was a mix of calibers, military and civilian, and we found no military buttons or other marked material. This indicated that irregular troops, probably the Loyalist militia, were camped at these locations. We still have no indications of a camp of regular British or Hessian troops.

In the course of the camp search, we also found a small artifact scatter



Figure 2: Excavation on the base of the eastern chimney of the Rebecca Motte house. (SCIAA photo)

indicating the presence of Civil War-era U.S. infantry. Documentary research soon revealed that these artifacts represented a detachment of our old friends the 55<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry, an African American regiment that we last worked with on Folly Island, in 1988 (see Legg and Smith 1989: "*The Best Ever Occupied ...*":

*Archaeological Investigations of a Civil War Encampment on Folly Island, South Carolina*). Shortly after the Confederate surrender, in June 1865, the 55<sup>th</sup> was part of a force sent from Charleston to establish Federal authority in the interior. The regiment was posted in Orangeburg, with a detachment posted at Fort Motte for most of the summer of 1865.

### Spring, 2013 Excavations

The spring 2013 excavation season at Fort Motte ran from May 13<sup>th</sup> to June 4<sup>th</sup>, and was undertaken with three major research goals. First, USC Anthropology graduate student Rebecca Shepherd had chosen as her thesis topic the 18<sup>th</sup> century domestic component at Fort Motte—the Rebecca Motte house, around which the fort was constructed. In support of her research, we planned additional excavation inside Fort Motte, on the house site proper. Second, we planned to take a better look at the earlier domestic site on the Motte property, the structure variously



Figure 1: Artifacts left behind by the 55<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry Regiment in the summer of 1865. (SCIAA photo)





Figure 3: Testing on the "old farm house" locus near Fort Motte. (SCIAA photo)

described as the "old farmhouse" or the house of Mrs. Motte's overseer, where she lived after the British occupied and fortified her mansion. Third, we hoped to discover and delineate the American sap, or siege approach trench, that they dug to safely approach within storming distance of the fort.

Rebecca Shepherd's excavations inside Fort Motte revealed both of the opposing chimneys of the house. The eastern chimney base was essentially intact under the plow zone, while the western chimney base was substantially robbed of brick, but was still identifiable. The house excavations also added to the material samples from both the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century occupations of the structure. Our work on the "old farmhouse" site, which was recently cleared and plowed, included systematic metal detecting, a piece-plotted surface collection, and several 1 x 1 meter test units. The resulting collection revealed that the site was indeed "old" in 1781; the ceramic assemblage in particular was more consistent with a mean occupation date falling in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

In the first Fort Motte report (Smith, Legg, Wilson and Leader 2007: *"Obstinate and Strong:" The History and Archaeology of the Siege of Fort Motte*), we concluded

that the historical sources, however ambiguous, placed the American sap somewhere roughly north of the fort. This was supported by fairly strong artifact evidence in the form of a linear distribution of fired British musket balls, projecting north-northeast from the fort. In addition, several of the balls

exhibited sand impact faces that indicated encounters with a sand barrier, not the very low angle, nearly horizontal impacts that would indicate balls striking the ground in an essentially level field. These musket balls, we speculated, struck the parapet of the American sap. With these leads, we began the search for the sap feature with a pair of hand-dug, meter-wide trenches placed perpendicular to the postulated run of the sap.

Unfortunately, with the plowzone removed, the surface of the subsoil quickly assumed the character of stoneware. We found it impossible to perform the repeated, careful cleanings of the surface that might have revealed the sap feature, and we resorted to Plan "B." This method employed a heavy trackhoe to dig a series of four trenches that were about a meter wide and 60 to 90 centimeters in depth. We were then able to see the sap feature clearly, not in plan but in profile, in all eight walls of the trackhoe trenches. It did indeed approach along the axis of the outgoing fire from Fort Motte, and it was dug in the approved European fashion, in a zig-zag series of roughly 90 degree turns, always presenting a defensive face to the enemy. To date, we have seen neither the



Figure 4: A view south-southwest toward Fort Motte, along the approach of the American sap. (SCIAA photo)





Figure 5: An exposure of the American sap in a trackhoe trench. (SCIAA photo)

beginning nor the end of the sap, and very little of it has been exposed in between, but we are pleased to have verified its location, and are anxious to explore it further next season in May-June 2014.

#### Public Presentations

During the spring 2013 excavation season, the owner of the Fort Motte property, Luther Wannamaker, hosted a well-attended visitors day for a

wide range of guests, including the Archaeological Research Trust Board. In September, Steve Smith led a tour of the site for a group from the Daughters of the American Revolution, and in October he led tours for a large group from the Friends of the Congaree. Steve has also given four Fort Motte lectures this year. We presented a Fort Motte exhibit at the Archaeological Society of South Carolina Archaeology Field Day at Santee State Park, in September, and the same exhibit made an appearance at the Francis Marion Symposium held in Manning, South Carolina, in October 2013.

#### Acknowledgements

Warm thanks as always to Fort Motte owner and guardian, Luther Wannamaker, who provided a wide range of support, including personnel and heavy equipment. Thanks also to our field crew for the spring season, including Tamara Wilson, Heathley Johnson, Andrew Frierson, Amy Goldstein, Larry Lane, John Fisher, Marybeth Harte, Bach Pham, and Jesse Childress.



Figure 6: Steve Smith at public tour of Fort Motte in May 2013. (SCIAA photo)

# Camp Asylum Update

By Chester B. DePratter

In previous issues of *Legacy*, I have written about two of the Civil War prisons located here in Columbia. These prisons, Camp Sorghum and Camp Asylum, were used in the winter of 1864-1865 to house 1,200 to 1,500 Union officers. These officers were originally held in Libby Prison in Richmond, but fears that advancing Union forces might stage raids to free them led

The fact that the prison was located on the Mental Health Asylum property has always been known, but there have never been any archaeological excavations on the site. Several years ago, I became interested in Columbia's Civil War prisons, and I began gathering prisoner diaries, letters, published papers, and any and all information I could track down concerning

the prisons and the men that were held in them. I now have 42 one-inch notebooks filled with that research collection.

In July 2013, the Columbia City Council and Mr. Bob Hughes, purchaser of the old Mental Health Asylum property on Bull

Street, signed a development agreement. This agreement provided limited funds for archaeological excavation on the site of Camp Asylum, where the Union officers were held between December 12, 1864, and February 14, 1865. Based on my long-term research on Camp Asylum and its predecessor, Camp Sorghum, I was selected to direct the excavations on the Mental Health Asylum property.

The development agreement provides \$25,000 from Mr. Hughes and

another \$25,000 from City Council to assist with the archaeological excavations at Camp Asylum. Estimated costs for the prison camp excavations and associated public education costs are between \$350,000 and \$400,000, so funds in hand are only a fraction of what will be required. A one-month site testing project planned for September 2013 has had to be postponed due to delays in my access permit. As of this writing, I have not been issued an access permit, and there is no way to know when that permit will be issued.

Major excavations are planned for January through April 2014. I have been working on raising the additional funds needed for the excavations, but without the testing project to generate publicity, fund-raising has progressed slowly. Applications to 65 small foundations are still out and may result in some funds, and I have also approached the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for assistance. Vinnie Suarez and Debbie Hamlett of the USC College of Arts and Sciences Development Office are assisting me in my efforts. Tax deductible contributions to my research can be sent to me at SCIAA. Please make checks payable to the USC Educational Foundation. Link to Camp Asylum article in *The State*: <http://www.thestate.com/2013/08/04/2899231/an-archaeologists-dream-exploring.html>.



Figure 1: Drawing of Camp Asylum. (Published in 1865 by prisoner A.O. Abbott, in his book, *Prison Life in the South*)

to their removal to Macon, Georgia, via Danville, Virginia, in July 1864. Then as Union General William T. Sherman advanced into Georgia on his "March to the Sea," the men held at Macon were sent to Savannah and then Charleston. They were held in Charleston until October 6, 1864, when they were transported to Columbia due to a yellow fever epidemic raging in Charleston at the time. The Columbia authorities had no notice of the sudden transfer of the prisoners, so the first night they were kept in a field adjacent to the train depot on Gervais Street. They were then marched across the Congaree River where they were placed in an open field surrounded by guards. Nearly 400 of the Union prisoners escaped over the next two months; on December 12 they were moved to the Mental Health Asylum property where the 1,200 officers could be placed inside a brick-walled enclosure to reduce the number of escapes. General Sherman's approach to the outskirts of Columbia forced the removal of the prisoners to Charlotte on February 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 1865.



Figure 2: Drawing of Camp Asylum. (Taken from an 1865 poster by prisoner Robert J. Fisher)



# A Summary of the Southeastern Paleoamerican Survey Activities for 2013

By Albert C. Goodyear

As mentioned in the May 2013 issue of *Legacy*, the Allendale Paleoamerican Expedition for 2013 was cancelled due to Tom Pertierra's medical crisis. According to all reports, he has made a substantial recovery but still has a ways to go. Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out on his behalf for a full return to his normal activities. At the Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference in October 2013 in Santa Fe, New Mexico ([www.PaleoamericanOdyssey.com](http://www.PaleoamericanOdyssey.com)), Tom was honored before the whole conference by an award recognizing his contributions to American archaeology. Congratulations to Tom who is well deserving of this award. There was a substantial number of Topper people at Santa Fe, including volunteers, students, supervisors, investigators and other supporters (Figure 1). Due to a last minute family matter, I was not able to attend but our presentation team ably carried on.

Since the Expedition was cancelled, efforts were directed toward doing specific analyses for the Pre-Clovis presentation at the Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference. My co-authors and I were invited to present a 30-minute paper on the evidence for the pre-Clovis occupation at Topper, including the controversial 50,000-year component (Goodyear et al. 2013). At SCIAA, analysis first concentrated on

the cobble size artifacts from the upper Pleistocene alluvial sands and the Pleistocene terrace immediately below (Figure 2). Elizabeth Bell and I examined 225 cobble size artifacts, finding that nearly 90% were modified, mostly as cores and core tools. It was determined that the chert cobbles had not washed down the old river bed but were in place, quarried from the natural outcrop immediately upslope on the side of the hill. Because of the thick cortical surfaces due to thousands of years of weathering, breaking open the cobbles by hurling them against each other proved futile. In order to break them open, a sledge hammer was required, thus eliminating the hill slope as an agent of fracture.

Another study documented the incidence of flakes with striking platforms and bulbs. Joe Wilkinson and I analyzed the excavation levels for 20 square meters of the Pleistocene alluvial sands, recording the size and frequency of "plat-bulb" flakes. This pre-15,000-year zone was shown to have numerous such flakes confirming Megan Hoak King's (2012) findings. These flakes resulted from retouching flakes and cores for tools. They were statistically smaller than flakes from the above Clovis and Early Archaic levels, since bipolar and anvil reduction was used for core reduction and not hard hammers like Holocene age groups. To show that

these flakes and the various retouched formal tools had not migrated down from above, the frequency of river cortex chert flakes was plotted showing they were restricted to the early Holocene levels above. At Topper, Clovis people were apparently the first to use the river smoothed, tanin-stained cherts present in the river bed as the Savannah River down cut to the modern bed level at that time or just before. Prior to this down cutting, this chert source was unavailable to preClovis people. As such, it forms a useful tracer of any disturbances coming from above.

Other lab studies included bend breaks and retouched flake tools. Bend breaks occur literally in the hundreds at Topper. These are flakes that are broken into sharp pieces for use as burins or chisels and obtuse angled scraping edges. In a sample of 100, 33% had square or rectangular shapes with the remaining 67% triangular in outline. Edge breakage has a transverse emphasis, as opposed to the radial type fracture. Wear retouch in the form of microchipping was present on 33% of the flakes, some with multiple edges. Like other expediently made flakes, not all pieces were necessarily used. Retouched flakes normally thought of as scrapers are found in the pre-Clovis assemblage, typified by unifacial retouch. In a sample of 50 such flakes, 98 retouched edges were observed, and over 78% were flaked on the dorsal surface. Types of retouched edges included convex or scraper forms, concave or spokeshaves, denticulates, and graver spurs. Small blades have also been found. The Pleistocene terrace (Figure 2) also has artifacts like the Pleistocene alluvial sands, found continuously for at least two meters. Two previous radiocarbon dates came back over 50,000 years, indicating it is beyond 14C dating. Currently, we are waiting for the results of new OSL dates, which are based on the improved single grain method. These are expected before the end of the year. They will serve as a cross check on the possibly dead 14C



Figure 1: The Topper people who attended the Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference in Santa Fe, NM, October 16-19, 2013. (SCIAA photo)

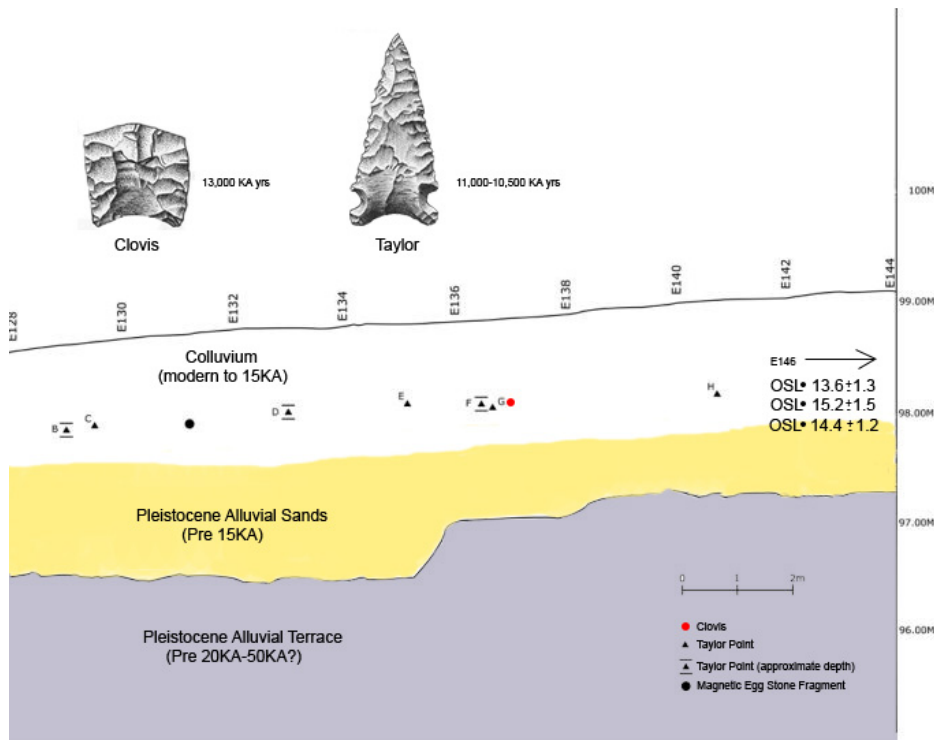


Figure 2: Profile of the Topper site under the Pavilion showing Holocene and Pleistocene age geological and archaeology stratigraphy. (SCIAA drawing)

dates. The question of the association of tools and the obviously old Pleistocene terrace is being investigated by Douglas Sain, as part of his doctoral dissertation at the University of Tennessee. Doug has analyzed approximately 20 cubic meters of this zone, back plotting flakes and tools. He has found that lithic artifacts of all sizes occur down through two meters with no indication of downdrift of artifacts. There is no evidence of small items being deeper, as moved down by disturbances. He also has found evidence of tri-layering of artifacts strongly suggesting that the artifacts were deposited in the terrace as it was building by alluvial deposition.

At the conclusion of our paper, I stated that the Topper preClovis assemblage is a core and flake technology without bifaces. In that sense, it is more Asian than European. Also given its great antiquity, it makes more sense to think of it as Palaeolithic, rather than preClovis. The antecedents of the Clovis culture would be substantially younger than what we have at Topper.

Last, I took the occasion of the conference to officially name it the Clariant Complex, in honor of the company that served as our host and benefactor for so many years.

Besides the preClovis presentation, a number of poster programs were given on Topper Clovis. Derek Anderson presented one on the remarkable success he has had with refitting artifacts and documenting the great integrity of the Clovis deposits. Ashley Smallwood presented on dating Clovis at Topper featuring our recent 10,958 BP +/- 65 BP radiocarbon date from the Hillside unit. Randy Daniel and I prepared a poster entitled, *Clovis Macro Bands of the Carolinas* (Daniel

and Goodyear 2013), focusing on the geographic distribution of metavolcanic Clovis points presumably coming from North Carolina, as contrasted with the Allendale Coastal Plain chert points originating from the Central Savannah River region (Figure 3). These distinct raw material signatures and prominent geographic clusters may bespeak of two major demographic groups interacting particularly in an aggregation zone demarcated by the Saluda River in the Piedmont and the Congaree-Santee Rivers on the Coastal Plain. The value of nearly 50 years of mapping fluted points in both states is starting to be shown with large and possibly demographically significant clustering being revealed. There is always more to learn, and the varied studies of the Southeastern Paleoamerican Survey are encouraging signs that we are penetrating some of these mysteries.

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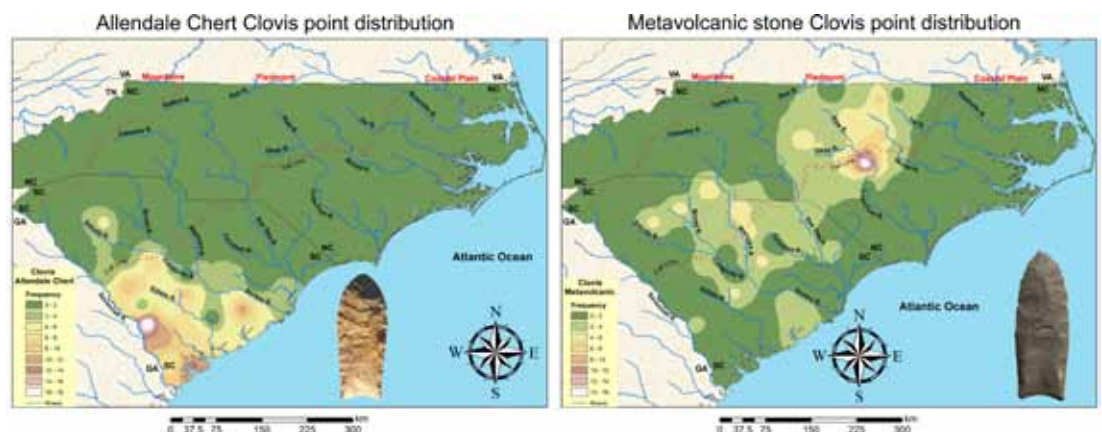


Figure 3: GIS maps of Uwharrie Mountain metavolcanic Clovis points in relation to Allendale coastal plain chert Clovis points. (GIS maps courtesy of Chris Moore)



# Underwater Archaeology on the Combahee River

By Chester B. DePratter

Back in January 2013, my friend, John Cable (Palmetto Research, Inc.), and I were at the Charleston Museum to look at 19<sup>th</sup> century artifact collections made from coastal shell heaps 3,000 to 4,000 years old. John and I are studying sites (including shell rings) in that time range for a project we are working on together. Martha Zierden, Curator of Historical Archaeology, allowed us access to the museum's collections. As John and I were finishing up our research, we pulled out one last drawer of artifacts, and in that drawer, I spotted some large, interesting sherds of Native American pottery. I immediately recognized those sherds as having been made by the Yamasee Indians, a group that I have been studying for more than 25 years.

The Yamasee are an interesting group of Native Americans. Most of the Yamasee originated in interior Georgia where they were visited by Spaniard Hernando de Soto in 1540. The Yamasee ancestors, called the Tama or Altamaha by Spaniards, remained in interior Georgia until they were driven out by the Westo

(or Erie) Indians. The Westo were a group of well-armed Indians who arrived on the Savannah River in 1659 after a long trek from western Pennsylvania by way of Virginia. Repeated attacks by the Westo forced the Tama to take refuge, first around Port Royal Sound near present-day Beaufort, and then by 1675, among the coastal Georgia Spanish missions with the Guale Indians. The Tama, who soon came to be called Yamasee, remained at the missions until 1683, when the Spaniards were forced to pull back toward St. Augustine due to repeated attacks by the Westo and by English pirates. Rather than move south with the Spaniards, the Yamasee, including some of their Guale hosts, chose to move



Figure 2: Yamasee pottery from the Combahee River. (SCIAA photo by James Legg)

north to be closer to the English settlement at Charles Towne.

The Yamasee settled around Port Royal Sound in 1683-1684 close to a settlement of Scots at Stuart's Town. The Scots encouraged the Yamasee to raid Spanish missions in Florida, and by doing so, the Yamasee incurred the wrath of the Spaniards. In late summer 1686, a Spanish fleet attacked Stuart's Town and the nearby Indian settlements, forcing the Yamasee to flee toward Charles Towne. The Yamasee settled on the Combahee and Ashepoo Rivers and remained there until sometime in the early 1690s, when they moved back to the margins of Port Royal Sound.

The label on the box holding the Yamasee sherds at the Charleston Museum said they were collected from the Combahee River. That meant that these sherds were made and used by the Yamasee between 1686 and about 1695. Using the Charleston Museum records (with Martha Zierden's help), I was able to pin down the location in the Combahee River where the sherds had been collected. Once I was back in Columbia, I tracked down the owner of the land adjacent to the site where the sherds were collected, but he would not allow access to his property for any archaeological work.



Figure 1: Ashley Deming and Chester DePratter examine Yamasee pottery, other artifacts, and bone from a single dive. (SCIAA photo)



Figure 3: Chester DePratter with hobby divers Dennis Coco and Jim Hickman. (SCIAA photo)

At this point in my research, I learned that the SCIAA Underwater Division (now Maritime Research Division) had worked on this Combahee River site in 1975. The collections from that two-week-long project are currently housed in the SCIAA curation facility. A photographic catalog of the collection by diver Drew Ruddy showed that the 1985 collection contained a mix of Yamasee

pottery and later materials from an adjacent plantation. By this time, I knew that I had to return to the site and see just how much Yamasee material there might be on the Combahee River bottom.

Jim Spirek, Head of SCIAA's Maritime Research Division (MRD), and Ashley Deming, Manager of SCIAA's Sport Diver Archaeology Management Program, agreed to work with me in a return to the



Figure 4: Chester DePratter and Ashley Deming on deck of floating dock with display of Yamasee sherds. (SCIAA photo)

Combahee River. We spent the week of June 10-14 in the field recovering Yamasee pottery from the river bottom. In addition to Jim and Ashley, divers included Joe Beatty and Carl Naylor of SCIAA, and hobby divers Bruce Orr, Dennis Coco, Jim Hickman, and Ted Churchill.

We had a wonderful week on the river! The weather was pleasant and the company could not have been better. Working under what I would consider marginal conditions (black water and tidal currents), the dive team was able to recover a large sample of Yamasee pottery to supplement that collected in 1975. Pictures of some of the recovered sherds are illustrated herein.



Figure 5: Yamasee pottery from the Combahee River. (SCIAA photo by James Legg)

The MRD staff and I are already making plans to return to this site and other nearby sites in the coming year to collect more pottery dating to the decade during which the Yamasee would have lived on this part of the South Carolina coast. These materials will help us understand how the immigrants Yamasee were adapting to their life on the frontiers of Carolina.



Figure 6: Yamasee pottery from the Combahee River. (SCIAA photo by James Legg)



# Maritime Research Division

## The Search for the U.S. Revenue Cutter *Gallatin*

By Evan Reger

*Editor's Note: Evan Reger is a Lieutenant in the U.S. Coast Guard, a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and currently assigned to the U.S.C.G. Marine Safety Center in Washington, D.C. Lt. Reger volunteered to participate in the search for Gallatin and provided great assistance in the remote sensing operations.*

On the morning of April 1, 1813, the powder room of the U.S. Revenue Cutter *Gallatin* exploded while the ship was at anchor in Charleston Harbor, killing three crew members and wounding five more (Figure 1). Just a day after returning from Savannah with crucial intelligence regarding British fleet movements, the crew was engaged in cleaning the ship's muskets when the explosion occurred. An attempt was made to tow the sinking vessel to the nearest pier, but the ship—torn apart and on fire—sank by the stern “a few yards from the head of Blake's Wharf” according to a local newspaper the following day. Over the next year, the newspapers reported that a diving bell was being constructed to salvage ordnance and equipment from the wreck, and that attempts had been made to raise the entire hull of the cutter. Extensive archival research has failed to uncover any more information regarding whether these attempts were successful, although researchers believe the salvage effort was likely abandoned due to the state of the

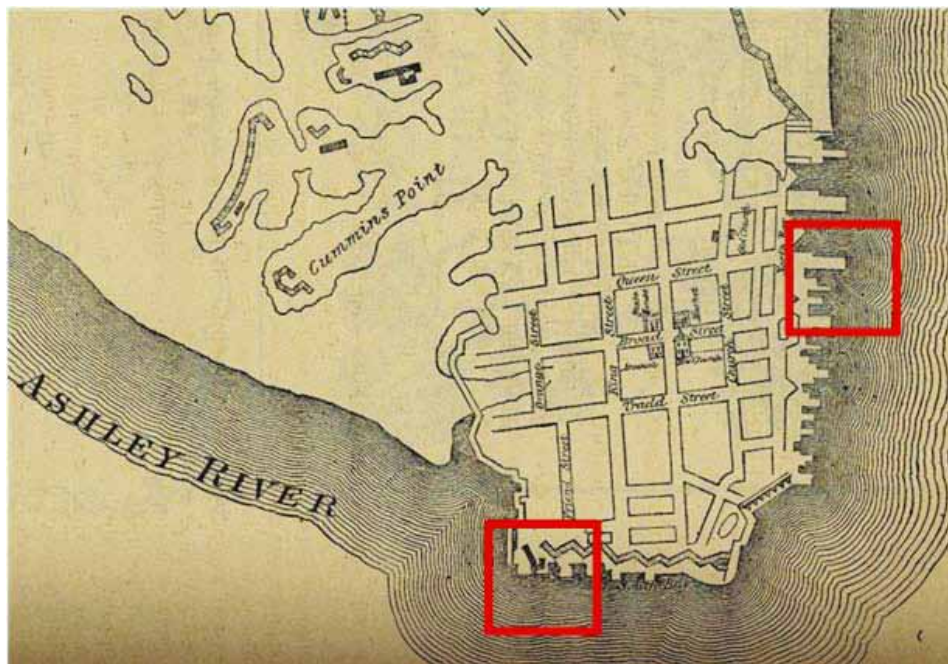


Figure 2: Historical map of Charleston circa 1780, showing the two search areas. (U.S. Coast Guard graphic)

vessel and the overall complexity of the operation.

Two hundred years later—to the day—a team lead by South Carolina State Underwater Archaeologist Jim Spirek, set

out to perform a systematic search for the *Gallatin's* remains. The team included the author, members of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol, and the City of Charleston Police Dive Team. The Marine Patrol's dive and survey vessel was used for the initial phases of the search, as well as for ground-truthing by the law enforcement dive teams. Significant magnetometer anomalies were to be investigated further using a sub-bottom profiler owned and operated by the College of Charleston and deployed from their research vessel.

Because there were two Blake's Wharves in Charleston at the time of the sinking, and because the newspaper articles in the days following the explosion failed to specify which one the *Gallatin* sank nearest to, two different search areas were proposed (Figure 2). One area was directly adjacent to the battery on the Ashley River, while the other was in the



Figure 1: U.S. Revenue Cutter *Surveyor*, sister ship to *Gallatin*. (Courtesy of U.S. Coast Guard)

Cooper River, off Waterfront Park, just south of Charleston's cruise ship terminal. Historical maps show that the shoreline at the time of sinking was consistent with its current location at the battery, but about two blocks inland from its current location on the Cooper River side.

The plan was to run side-scan sonar simultaneously with a towed G-880 Cesium Marine Deep Tow magnetometer. Because of the amount of silt accumulation in the harbor, it was unlikely that the remains would show up on side-scan. However, if any of the eight reported cannons remained, they were expected to appear as large magnetic anomalies. Because of the shallow depth (0-20 feet), a hull-mounted Lowrance StructureScan sonar was

deemed adequate, eliminating the need to tow both a side-scan towfish and the magnetometer in a complicated array.

During the first day of the search, the area adjacent to Waterfront Park was systematically searched using track lines 15 meters apart in a process commonly known as "mowing the lawn." The location of the survey grid in the Cooper River

created some unavoidable obstacles to the search—literally. Several piers stuck out into the search area, making it necessary to weave in and around. Also, the piers and the boats tied to them created significant magnetic disturbances, rendering the magnetometer nearly useless close in. Despite these obstacles, the team found several interesting magnetometer and side-scan anomalies.

The team post-processed the side-scan data using SonarWiz4 and

ArcGIS. The combined datasets were then incorporated into ArcGIS, which already included historical maps of Charleston Harbor, the current nautical chart of the area, and the track lines planned for the search, all georeferenced and overlaid on top of one another. Post-processing of the magnetometer and sidescan sonar data indicated a number of anomalies. The team prioritized three sonar targets consisting of distinct mounds or piles, each with underlying magnetic anomalies. On the third and fourth days of the search, divers from the City of Charleston Police Department and Charleston County Sheriff's Office were sent to investigate the acoustic anomalies, which were lying in about 18 feet of water (Figure 3).



Figure 3: South Carolina State Underwater Archaeologist Jim Spirek (left) briefing the Charleston County Sheriff's Office and City of Charleston Police dive team members prior to a ground-truthing dive. (Coast Guard photo by Evan Reger)

Unfortunately, the divers did not locate the anomalies due to extremely poor visibility and rough weather, although a natural river gravel bed was noted on one dive.

The bottom topography in that particular area was interesting, as sonar indicated a very steep gradient producing a nearly sheer drop off from about five feet deep to approximately 20 feet. Historical nautical charts reveal the steep gradient has been present for many years, perhaps indicating the area has been relatively

untouched by dredging operations. The steep drop off may explain why a diving bell was needed for salvage, even though the ship reportedly sank just yards from the end of the pier.

On the fourth and final day of the search, the team had planned to join with College of Charleston Marine Geology Professor Dr. Scott Harris, to use a sub-bottom profiler (SBP) to further investigate the anomalies found in the Cooper River survey area. Unfortunately, due to a forecast of inclement weather, the team was forced to scrub the SBP survey and postpone it until a later date. During the survey, the team determined that the targets with the most promise were located too far south to be in the right area. Since

the survey work in April, however, new information regarding the possible location of the wreck has been uncovered. Dr. Nic Butler, public historian at the Charleston County Public Library, was able to ascertain the exact spot in which Blake's Wharf was located on the Cooper River in 1813. According to Butler's research, which included a plat of Blake's Wharf when it was offered for sale in 1818, the site is located directly beneath present day

Middle Atlantic Wharf Street (Figure 4). This area is closer than originally thought to the Old Exchange Building, which, having been used as a customs house, would not have been an unusual place for a federal revenue cutter to moor up.

In fact, the wharf was only about 200 feet north of the Old Exchange Building. The head of the wharf is now most likely under the western edge of Waterfront Park, meaning that the wreck is possibly located beneath the park





Figure 4: The red line indicates the present-day location of Blake's Wharf, beneath Middle Atlantic Wharf Street. North is to the right in the photo. The bottom edge of the solid white line indicates the likely location of the head of Blake's Wharf. The dotted line marks the steep drop off, at the bottom, of which the interesting sonar target was discovered. (Graphic by Dr. N. Butler and Evan Reger)

itself. However, if the construction of the diving bell is any indication of deeper water, the wreck may be in the river. The 1813 City Directory states that vessels waiting to receive a berth at a wharf had to anchor approximately 50 fathoms (300 feet) from a wharf head, and if laden and waiting to depart the harbor, had to anchor approximately 100 fathoms (600 feet) from the wharves. This further distance, if extended straight out into the

river from what would have been the end of the wharf, falls in the exact location of the steep drop off and the most promising sonar target—what appears to be a pile of rock or other debris with underlying magnetic anomalies (Figure 5). The team intends to continue archaeological investigations of the area as opportunity, time, and funds become available.

Dr. Harris's team from the College of Charleston will conduct SBP operations off

the now refined location of Blake's Wharf. Also in the works is a land magnetometer survey, using a gradiometer and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to "see" beneath Waterfront Park nearer to the head of the old wharf.

While the U.S. Navy has long been involved in locating and documenting their lost ships, the Coast Guard has only recently begun to invest in preserving its own sunken history. The search for the *Gallatin* was the first of several expeditions planned by the Coast Guard Historian's Office to systematically search for, locate, and survey historic shipwrecks belonging to the U.S. Coast Guard and its predecessors (Figure 6). Currently on the drawing boards are plans to locate and survey the remains of two Revenue Cutters, the *Diligence III* and the *Governor Williams*, lost in a storm near Ocracoke, North Carolina, in 1806 while on a mission to survey the Carolina coast. Another expedition still in the planning phase is a search for one of the most famous of all Coast Guard vessels, and the namesake of the Coast Guard Academy's mascot, the Revenue Cutter *Bear*. Hopefully, there will be more to report on these searches as they progress.



Figure 5: Several mounds of either debris or rock mounds in deeper water off historic location of Blake's Wharf. (SCIAA graphic)

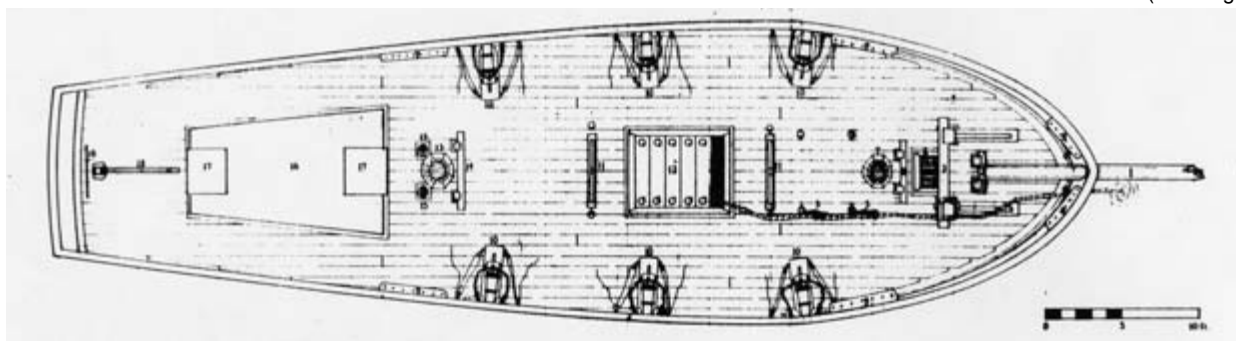


Figure 6: Deck plan of U.S. Revenue Cutter *Surveyor*. (Courtesy of U.S. Coast Guard)

# Charleston Harbor Stone Fleets Survey

By James D. Spirek

On two separate occasions and locations in 1861 and 1862, the Union navy sank a total of 29 ex-whaling and merchant vessels in an effort to block the two main entrances into Charleston Harbor during the Civil War (Figure 1). These obstructions were intended to frustrate the passage of blockade runners bringing war material and other sundry products from Europe and returning laden with cotton, rice, and naval stores. The ships broke apart and pieces washed ashore, a new channel supposedly scoured out, and blockade runners bypassed the obstructions with minimal diversion from their preferred route through Maffitt's Channel along Sullivan's Island. Over the years, the vessels reportedly slipped under the "quicksands" at the bar and eventually faded into the historical and archaeological record of South Carolina.



Figure 1: Illustration of the sinking of the First Stone Fleet. (In *Harper's Weekly*)

Working under an American Battlefield Protection Program grant from the National Park Service from 2008-2011, the Maritime Research Division (MRD) conducted several remote sensing operations to locate the two stone fleets, as well as other naval casualties of the conflict (see *Legacy*, Vol. 16, No. 2, pp. 4-9). At the bar of the Main Ship Channel, MRD detected 15 ballast mounds clustered

together, along with a few other wrecks, indicating the position of the First Stone Fleet (n=16) sunk in late December 1861. MRD and volunteers dove on five of the sites and documented visible features, which included rocks, wood structure, and fasteners protruding out of the sand. Meanwhile, the Second Stone Fleet (n=13), sunk at the entrance to Maffitt's Channel in early January 1862, eluded detection, although several ballast mounds were located. Due to the size of the rocks, some quite large, and quarried as well, suggested these wrecks might relate

to the building of the stone jetties, and specifically wrecked during the 1885 hurricane. A subsequent foray using private funds from our Underwater Archaeology Research Fund, located a couple of other potential shipwrecks in the area, but unfortunately "lumpy" seas prevented survey operations until a later date.

Earlier in 2013, the MRD prepared and received a National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund grant administered by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History to continue our stone fleet research. The grant will fund additional efforts to document each of the 29 vessels once all the fleets are accounted for, and to nominate the two stone fleets to the National Register of Historic Places as National Register Districts. Currently, we have launched another remote sensing foray in an attempt to locate the Second Stone Fleet. Analysis of the findings suggests we are in the right neighborhood with the discovery of several more ballast mounds (Figure 2). The location of these ballast mounds, however, means that we may have to re-assess our initial identification of the previous ballast

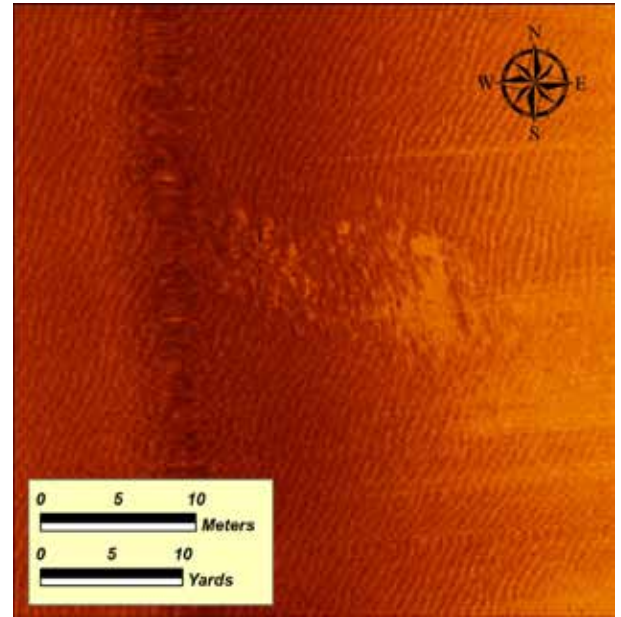


Figure 2: Sonogram of a ballast mound located in the Second Stone Fleet search area. (SCIAA graphic)

mounds as barges, and instead, consider them as potential stone fleet vessels.

Additionally, we are conducting historical research on the 45 vessels that comprised the entire stone fleet sent south to Savannah and Charleston. Interesting details of these ships' histories are emerging relating to their whaling and merchant days. As we are in the bicentennial years of the War of 1812, one of the vessels sunk in the First Stone Fleet, *Rebecca Sims*, had been captured by the British navy in 1812 and sent to Port Royal, Jamaica as a prize and its crew imprisoned. Following a court finding in its favor, the ship and its crew were released and sailed to New York City with recently freed American merchant sailors and officers of the USS *Vixen* that had been captured during a fierce sea battle with a British warship. The ship then proceeded up the Hudson River to lay-up until the end of the war. The ships' histories interweaved with the archaeological record will provide a more complete interpretation of the events that eventually led to their scuttling off Charleston Harbor. Ultimately, the project will serve to broaden our understanding of the maritime archaeological legacy in the rivers and coastal waters of South Carolina.



# The 2013 Black River Project

By Ashley M. Deming

For the first two weeks in August of 2013, the Maritime Research Division (MRD) and a number of volunteers conducted an archaeological survey of Black Mingo Creek and two potential ferryboats at Brown's Ferry Landing in Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties. The project sought to answer some questions regarding known and unknown historical sites in Black Mingo Creek and to record the two known vessels at a historic ferry landing. Our research included hobby diver reports, both oral and written, SCIAA staff recollections of past visitations and assessments as well as field notes, South Carolina State Site Files, and oral histories of local inhabitants in the area. We conducted this survey through remote sensing and diving operations using the help of many wonderful volunteers from the academic and sport diving community.

Week 1 focused solely on a stretch of Black Mingo Creek. This area ran from the mouth at the Black River up to where it became impossible to go any farther (roughly 13 miles upriver). We were lucky enough to be put up by two amazing hobby divers, Caroline and



Figure 2: Week 1 volunteers Bruce Orr and Cody James review the side scan sonar data on Black Mingo Creek. (SCIAA photo)

Bobby Woodward, who also shared their extensive knowledge and collections of artifacts and sites in the creek. Our other volunteers that week were hobby divers, Bruce Orr and Gus Dunlap, University of West Florida underwater archaeology

student Cody James, and Dr. Scott Harris and two students from the College of Charleston.

We used side scan sonar to try to locate known and unknown sites, but our equipment acted up, so we got straight onto the diving. We used location information from a variety of sources to choose our dive spots. Divers made recoveries of a small sample set of artifacts from each site to study, as well as to be used for museum exhibits and educational purposes. We found a variety of artifacts that speak to many different periods of occupation and use along and on Black Mingo Creek. These artifacts are consistent with our research of the extensive use of the creek throughout time.

We discovered several new sites, including two shipwreck sites and what we believe is a historic landing site that was used from at least the late 19<sup>th</sup> century through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Black Mingo Creek has a wealth of information, and we hope to conduct more survey there in the future.

Week 2 was spent at Brown's Ferry Landing locating and recording two

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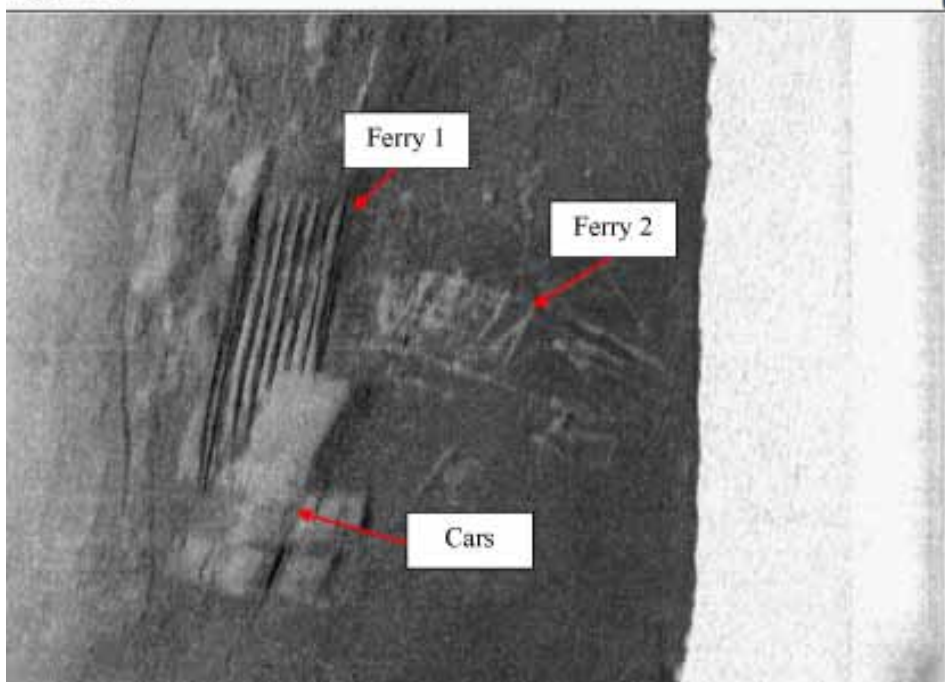


Figure 1: Side scan sonar image of the ferry site. (SCIAA map)

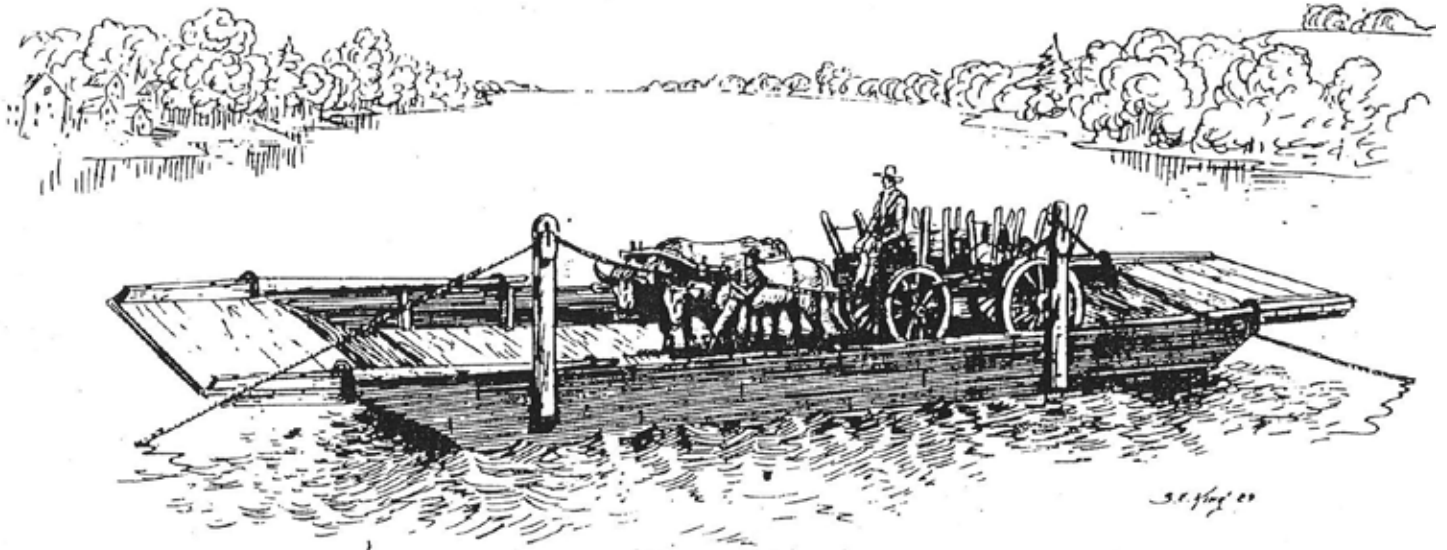


Figure 3: Illustration of an historic rope ferry.

vessels that are believed to be ferryboats. These vessels were noted by SCIAA staff when the Brown's Ferry Vessel (now in the Georgetown Rice Museum) was excavated and again in the 1980s and 1990s on brief surveys of the area. Besides knowing of the existence of these vessels, little had been done to study the vessels or the historic ferry landing.

The Week 2 team included MRD staff Jim Spirek, Ashley Deming, Carl Naylor, and Joe Beatty, as well as volunteers Nate Fulmer, Bruce Orr, Rick Presnell, Catherine Sawyer, and Jimmy Armstrong. We conducted side scan sonar to define the area and came up with an excellent picture of the site (Figure 1). The image shows both ferryboats, as well as what turned out to be three cars (one upside-down Buick, one Camero, and a truck).

The site was extremely disorienting, as the water was very dark with lots of particulates and a quick current. We spent at least one day becoming familiar with the sites before we began to record each one. Once we felt comfortable with our orientation, we laid a baseline on Ferry 2 to begin recording. In addition to the use of dive slates and measuring tapes, we also took many underwater photos and video to record the site.

We discovered that Ferry 2 had two disarticulated (unattached) stanchions with pulley wheels. This definitively made it a ferryboat. It seemed it was likely

a rope ferry based on the construction, which makes it one of the older style ferries at the location. More research on the construction will need to be pursued to define a time period for the vessel. While Ferry 1 is probably a ferry, we are still not certain. This vessel is missing many attributes that would indicate, for certain, it is a ferry. It does exhibit two stanchions, but there are no pulley assemblages remaining, if they existed at all. Both vessels are approximately 40 feet long and 15 feet wide.

This project was a huge success from the volunteer and community involvement to the research conducted. We hope to pursue future research in this area, as there is still much to learn about maritime heritage in the region. The new Georgetown County Museum in Georgetown will be host to many of the artifacts from this project once it officially opens. Many thanks to all of our volunteers and to the Archaeological Research Trust Board for awarding us the grant and making the project possible.



Figure 4: Week 2 Black River Project team: (left to right): Nate Fulmer, Joe Beatty, Catherine Sawyer, Carl Naylor, Jimmy Armstrong, and Jim Spirek. Not pictured: Ashley Deming, Bruce Orr, and Rick Presnell. (SCIAA photo)



# Savannah River Archaeology Research

## An Update on G. S. Lewis-West: A Deptford Phase Site in Aiken County, South Carolina

By Keith Stephenson, Savannah River Archaeological Research Program and Karen Y. Smith, Applied Research Division

The G. S. Lewis-West site (38AK228-W) was discovered on the Savannah River Site (SRS) during a reconnaissance survey in 1977 (G. S. Lewis, personal communication, 1992). Personnel from the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SRARP) tested the site in 1984, and staff began a large block excavation that same year. Work continued uninterrupted over the next three years,

mainly as a weekend volunteer project under the direction of Glen T. Hanson, Director of the SRARP. In total, 154 square meters were excavated at Lewis-West before work shifted to another site on the SRS in 1987. Two years later, David Anderson, Ken Sassaman, and a volunteer crew spent two additional weeks at the site to complete feature mapping and excavation, which included the excavation

of three dog burials and over 500 pits and postmolds.

Since then, reporting on the work at Lewis-West has proceeded in fits and starts. In addition to formal and informal presentations, an article in SCIAA's *Legacy* (Stephenson and Civitello 2001), and a page-long summary in a synthetic report on prehistory of the SRS (Sassaman et al. 1990: 96-98), the only technical report produced to date comes from an analysis of faunal material (Reitz and Frank 1985). Our goal in the coming months is to fill the gap in analysis and reporting.

Toward this end, thus far, we have examined 22 of the features and analyzed more than 6,000 ceramic sherds, of which 2,600 were too eroded or small to identify to ceramic type. Although the sample analyzed is small, considering the total number of features excavated, we feel we have already achieved some degree of redundancy. For example, all features have check-stamped, linear check-stamped, or both, and many have small amounts of simple-stamped present in their fill.

Postmold patterns reveal the presence of several house structures with associated pits. One structure in particular is oval with single set posts spaced approximately 30 to 50 centimeters apart and has a diameter of between four to three and a half meters with internal support posts and an opening toward the south. This architectural pattern resembles the warm-weather, pavilion-like open structure that Milanich identified on the Georgia coast (Milanich and Fairbanks 1980).

Lewis-West now has a relatively substantial radiocarbon dataset with 20 dates taken from charred organic samples recovered from 19 features and one date



Figure 1: The original Carolina Dog burial radiocarbon dated to ca. 300 B.C. (SRARP photo)

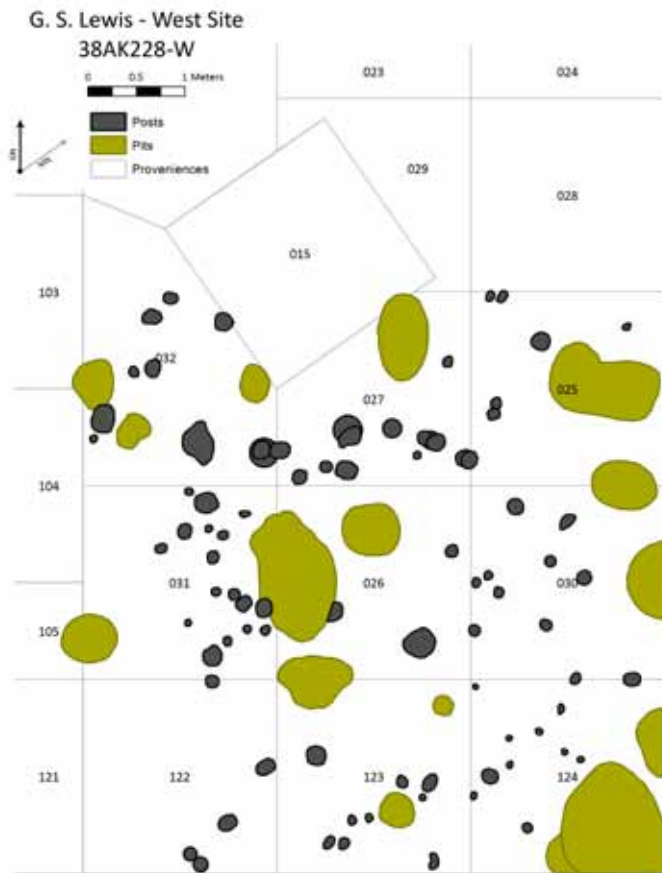


Figure 2: Oval structure dated to the Deptford phase. (SRARP map)

from a midden sample. The dataset is not as tightly distributed as one would hope. However, the spread of dates from Late Archaic to the Early Mississippian Period is no doubt a result of the occupational history of the landform. That said, 10 of the 20 dates fall between 400 B.C. and A.D. 250, squarely in the Middle Woodland Period. It is to this period that intensive site occupation occurred at Lewis-West.

The Woodland Period has long been considered a “black hole” in South Carolina prehistory (e.g., Charles 2001). As our analysis progresses, we hope to show that Lewis-West still has much to contribute toward our understanding of Upper Coastal Plain Deptford phase archaeology and, more generally, will help shed needed light on the Middle Woodland Period in South Carolina.

We presented our current analysis at the 70th Annual Southeastern Archaeological Conference in Tampa, Florida November 2013.

Stay tuned for more updates!

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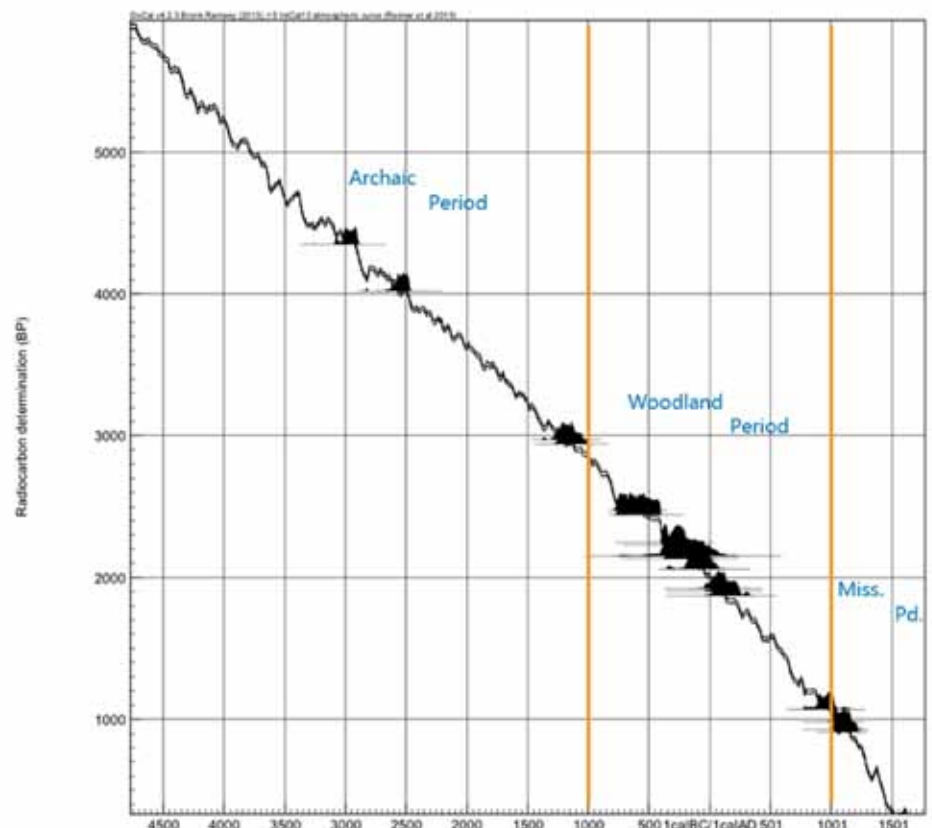


Figure 3: Calibrated date ranges for radiocarbon assays indicating periods of occupation. (SRARP figure)



# Recent Investigations at Etowah Field School 2013

By Adam King

In the summer 2013, a joint field school with students from the University of South Carolina and Texas State University set out to conduct limited archaeological testing at the famous Mississippian site of Etowah. The National Science Foundation funded this work with approval from Georgia's Department of Natural Resources and the nine federally-recognized Native American groups culturally affiliated with Etowah through the NAGPRA process. It also was done with the participation of staff from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Cultural Preservation Office.

Etowah is a large Mississippian period town located in northwestern Georgia that was occupied from AD 1,000 to 1,550 and covered some 22 hectares (Figure 1). During the course of its occupations, at least six mounds were built, a large clay-lined plaza was located east of the largest mound, and the entire site was surrounded by a complex of borrow pits, ditches, and a palisade wall. Etowah has been the focus of archaeological research since the late 1880s, but the lion's share of that work has focused on the mounds and the recovery of human remains (King 2003). We wanted our work to focus away from the mounds and on the history of the site as a

community.

The summer's testing actually was a continuation of a project in which I have been involved since 2005 with Kent Reilly of Texas State University, Chet Walker of Archaeo-Geophysical Associates, and the Cultural Preservation Office of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. We call this the Etowah Archaeo-Geophysical Survey or EAS, and we began it with the expressed purpose of learning as much as we could about Etowah by doing as little invasive archaeology as possible.

Under the auspices of the EAS, we have used several different geophysical prospecting techniques (or remote sensing) at the site, most extensively applying the gradiometer, electrical resistivity, and ground-penetrating radar. Without question, our best results were

produced by the fluxgate gradiometer, which measures slight variations in magnetism.

In 2008, Chet Walker of Archaeo-Geophysical Associates, LLC, completed a total survey of the Etowah site, collecting magnetic data at one-meter intervals. That survey revealed 140 magnetic anomalies of the right size and shape to be Mississippian

period buildings (Walker 2009). More interestingly, Walker was able to classify those anomalies into categories based on morphology. Type 1 anomalies are comprised of a series of magnetic highs and lows generally conforming to a square or rectangle about six to eight meters across (Figure 2). Type 2 anomalies consist of a continuous magnetic high forming a rectangular to square shape with an area of low magnetism within. Often in the center of that area of magnetic low is a single spike in magnetism (Figure 3).

We know in the archaeological record of northwestern Georgia that there were two basic forms of architecture built during the Mississippian period (Hally and Langford 1988). Between AD 1,000 and 1,200, the most common form of building is called the wall-trench building (Figure 4). These were made by excavating trenches, setting prefabricated walls made of skinny poles in those trenches, and bending and tying those poles at the top

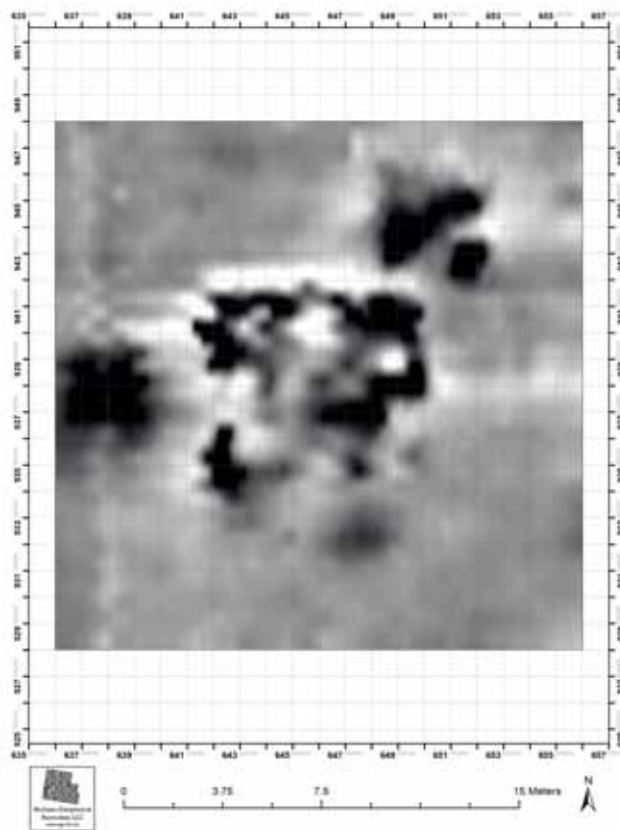


Figure 2: Type I magnetic anomaly, Etowah. (Image by Adam King)

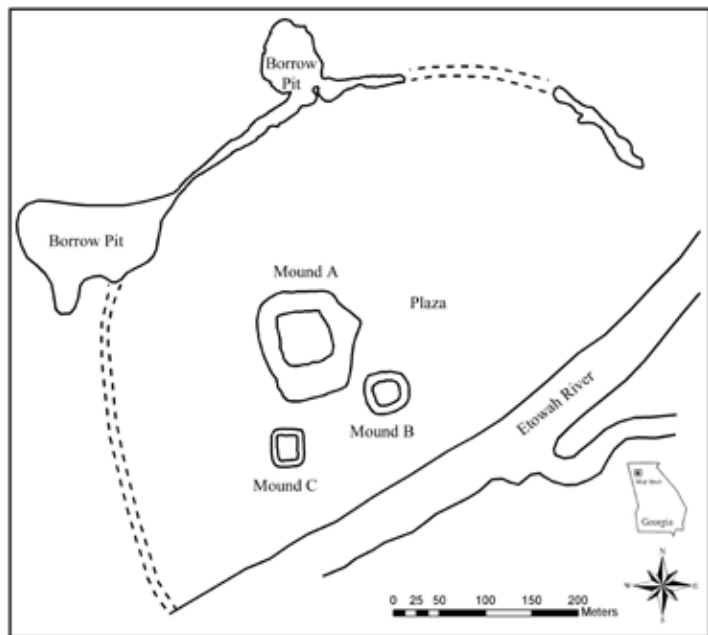


Figure 1: Plan map of the Etowah site (9Br1). (Map by Adam King)

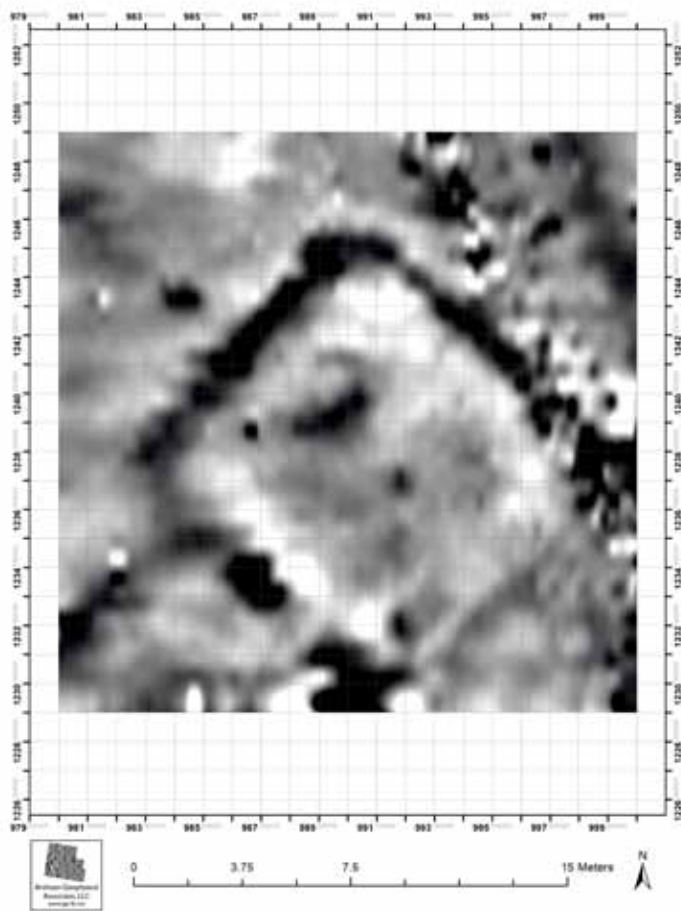


Figure 3: Type 2 magnetic anomaly, Etowah. (Image by Adam King)

to cover the structure. Thatch is added to the roof, but no clay plaster or daub is added to the walls, and no interior support posts are needed to hold up the roof. After AD 1,200, single-set post buildings become the dominant architectural form (Figure 5). These are constructed by placing individual posts in individual holes, creating a pole framework. Using four or six interior support posts, a roof framework is built of poles that are covered with thatch. The exterior walls, interior partitions, and smoke holes of these buildings are packed with red clay plaster or daub.

Based on what we know about the construction methods of each type of building, we have argued that the Type 1 Anomalies represent single-set post buildings (King et. al 2008). The red clay daub collapsed from walls and roofs would create the palimpsest of magnetic highs and lows seen in this type of anomaly. As Figure 3 shows, sometimes it is even possible to see the interior partition

25-centimeter intervals. Using those data, we positioned one-meter units to capture exterior walls. All soils were screened, artifacts bagged by level, and feature fill processed through flotation in order to collect datable materials.

Between June 24 and August 1, 2013, our combined crew investigated nine Type 1 anomalies and nine Type 2 anomalies as well as some other unique anomalies at the site. In all, a total of 42 one-meter units were

walls collapsed in place. Following this, we have also argued that the Type 2 anomalies correspond to wall-trench buildings. Without the daub to create highs and lows, the excavated and refilled trenches and central hearths are clearly distinguished from the floor area.

In the summer of 2013, our field school set out to test 10 Type 1 and 10 Type 2 magnetic anomalies to confirm their architectural form and dating. Before testing, Chet Walker recollected selected anomalies using a fluxgate gradiometer at

completed (Figure 6).

Of nine Type 1 anomalies tested, in all nine cases, masses of burned daub and single-set posts were encountered in test units. Although dating analyses are still underway, we saw no stratigraphic evidence that these buildings are any earlier than AD 1,300. Below is an example from the excavations.

In Grid 16, we placed two one-meter units to overlap what we expected to be the wall of a structure (Figure 7). In the westernmost of the two, we found a daub mass laying horizontally and immediately to the east of three single-set posts (Figure 8). Associated ceramics suggest a date of 1,325 to 1,375.

Turing to the Type 2 anomalies that we expected to represent wall-trench buildings, our results were also quite good. Of the nine anomalies tested, eight of them returned evidence of a wall-trench building. These buildings were generally deeper in the soil profile with fewer associated ceramics, so their dating in our excavations must await a complete pottery analysis from each stratigraphic column.

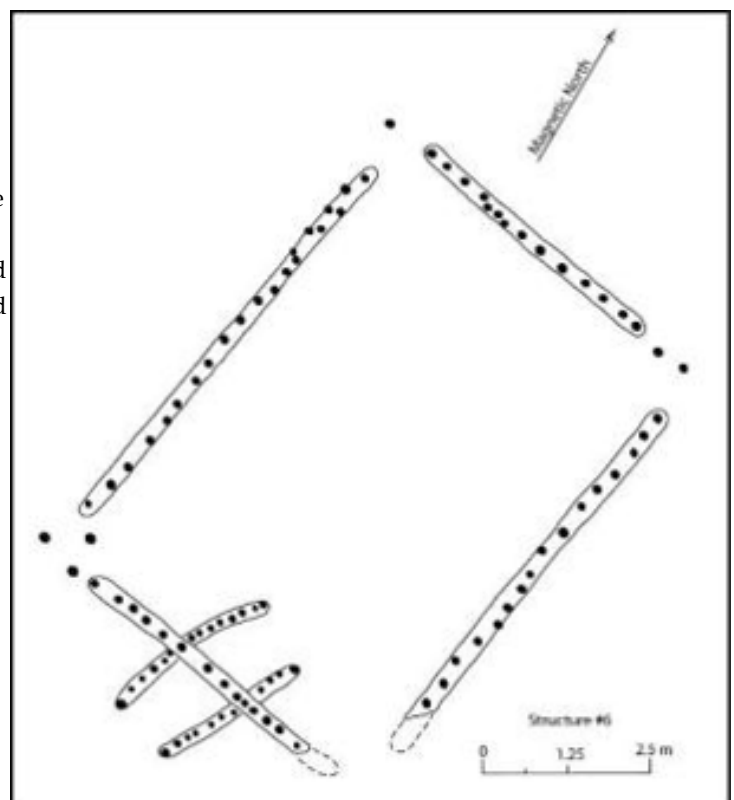


Figure 4: Single-set post building pattern, Etowah. (Image by Adam King)



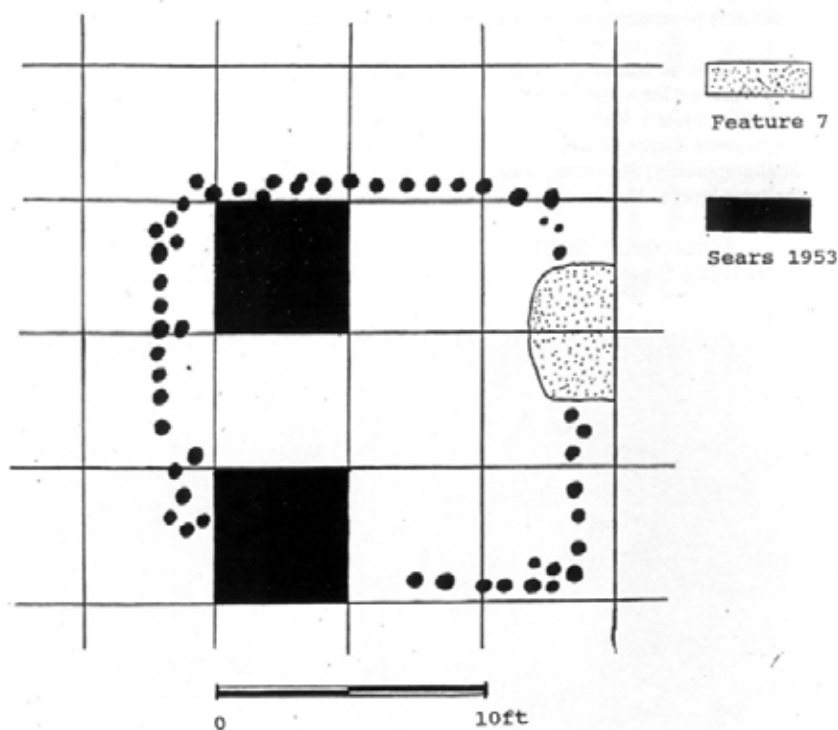


Figure 5: Wall-trench building pattern, Etowah. (Image by Adam King)

Below again is an example.

In Grid 7, a one-meter unit was placed so that the anomaly extended diagonally across it from southwest to northeast (Figure 9). Upon excavation, the crew uncovered a nicely defined wall-trench that extended through the unit exactly where the gradiometer predicted it should be (Figure 10). At the base of the trench, individual post holes were visible and excavated separately.

We tested some other interesting anomalies, and there is much more to do, but for now we learned something very important. We can see different kinds of buildings that generally date to different time periods using only the gradiometer. Because the gradiometer gives us continuous data over large areas, it gives us a view of Etowah's communities only rivaled by WPA-style mass labor large-scale excavations—the kind of thing we cannot afford to do today nor would we necessarily want to do because of the destructive nature of excavation.

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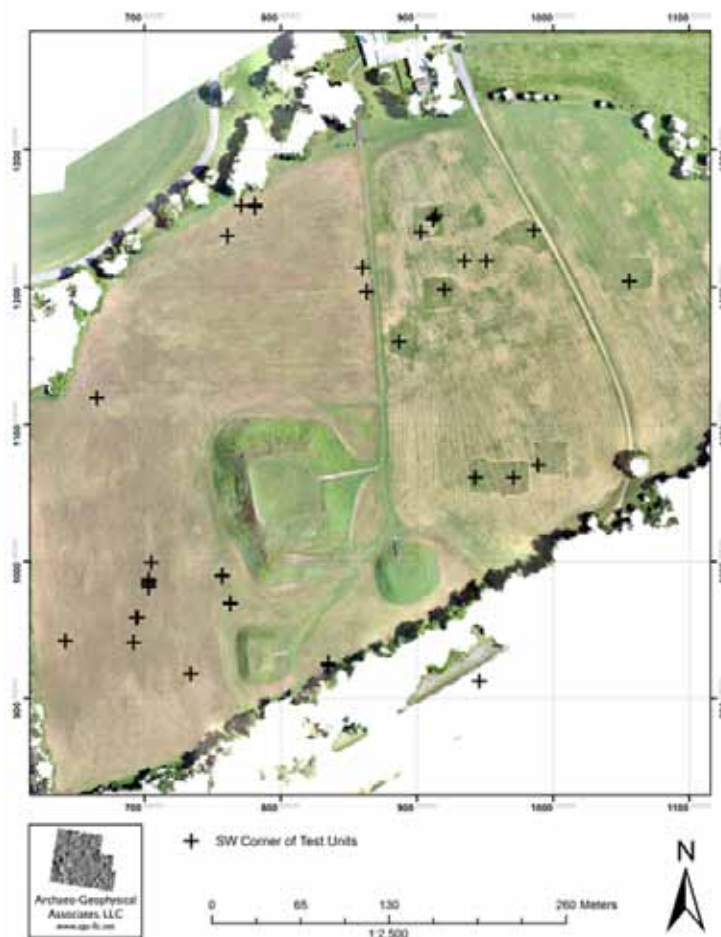


Figure 6: Aerial photo of Etowah showing the location of summer 2013 test units. (Image by Adam King)

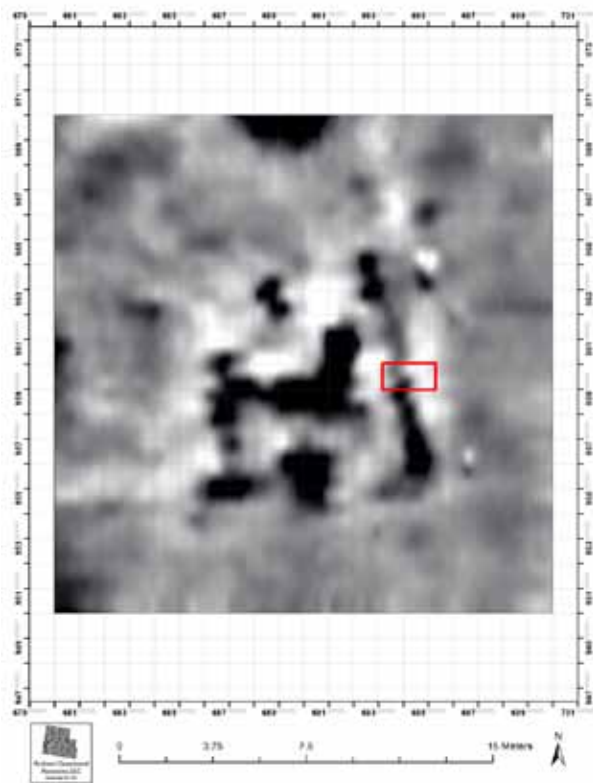


Figure 7: Magnetometer map of structure in Grid 16. (Map by Adam King)



Figure 8: Photograph of architectural features in Grid 16. (Photo by Adam King)

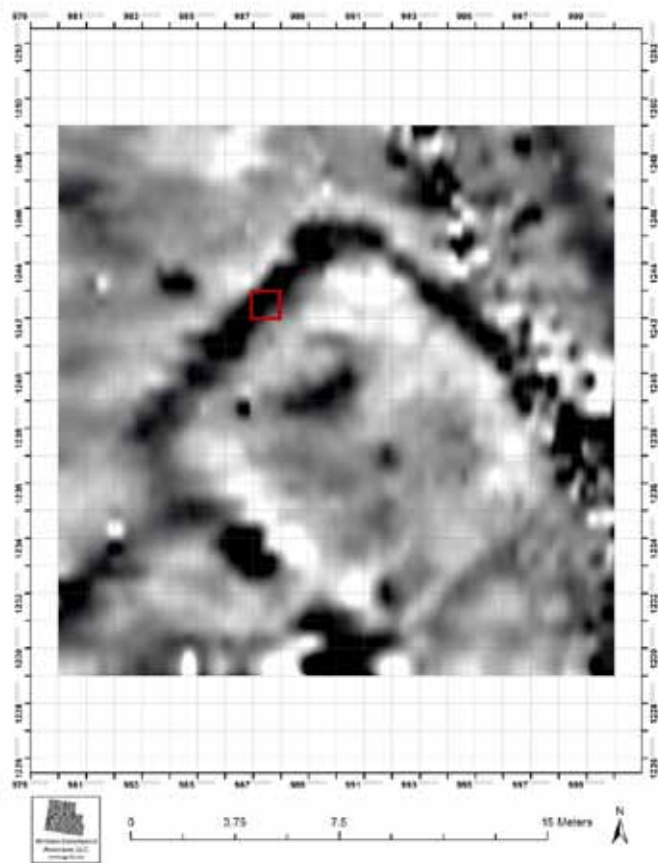


Figure 9: Magnetometer map of structure in Grid 7. (Map by Adam King)



Figure 10: Photograph of architectural features in Grid 7. (Photo by Adam King)



# Exploring the Native American Colonial Landscape of the Central Savannah River Area, Late 17th -Early 18th Centuries

By J. Christopher Gillam, Charles Cobb, Chester DePratter, and Tammy Herron

Research conducted by the Savannah Valley Frontier Project (hereafter, Frontier) and Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SRARP) has yielded many valuable insights into the Colonial era of the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) over the years. Prior research by the SRARP has focused on examining archaeological sites of the period in the hopes of identifying potentially influencing factors that may account for Colonial site location, such as agricultural, ecological, geographic, and social factors (Brooks 1981; Brooks et al. 2000; Crass et al. 1996, 2002; Forehand et al. 2004; Meyers 2001).

Most recently, the colonial interactions of Native Americans and their European counterparts have become a major focus of this research through the Frontier project (Cobb and DePratter 2012; Cobb et al. 2012). The CSRA and neighboring locales were particularly dynamic during this era as multiple Native American immigrant populations moved into the region to trade with the English after the 1670 establishment of Charles Town and the English Carolina Colony (Figure 1). Only the Westo, likely the Erie from western New York, arrived in the Savannah Valley prior to the English, in 1659. Native groups that immigrated to the Savannah River after the English Carolina Colony was established, included the Shawnee from the Ohio Valley, the Chickasaw from northern Mississippi, the Apalachicola from the lower Chattahoochee drainage of Alabama and Georgia, the Apalachee from the Florida panhandle, and the Yuchi, who moved to Carolina from eastern Tennessee (DePratter 2003).

One objective of the 'Frontier' study was to gain a greater understanding of

the cultural landscape, interactions, and corresponding activity of these immigrant Native American groups that settled the CSRA's Colonial (late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries) frontier using the methods of Geographic Information Science (GISci). Examining the distribution of sites, it is possible to identify six archaeological site clusters along the Central Savannah River (Figure 2). These clusters of sites likely represent the locations of dispersed Native American Colonial towns (Cobb et al. 2012). Observations of the geographic

loamy sand of the floodplain and adjacent terraces offered an abundance of edible and herbaceous vegetation and was also the most suitable land for native agriculture. Low terrace slopes, levees, and islands adjacent to and within the floodplain were, and are, well drained for much of the year providing stable habitation sites. Beaver were plentiful along the tributary streams, as were white-tailed deer, and other mammals, providing ample resources for trade with the English along the coast. Chert was

also available for expedient stone tools, occurring as secondary river gravels and as primary outcrops in nearby Allendale County, South Carolina and Screven County, Georgia (Goodyear and Charles 1984).

There are two apparent site cluster concentrations in the current sample that yield additional information about the cultural landscape of the time (Figure 2). The northern concentration consists of four site clusters within the Fall Zone (ca. 90-meters to 120-meters amsl), the interface between the Piedmont and Upper Coastal Plain near present-day Augusta, Georgia (Murphy 1995); and a

southern concentration consisting of two site clusters, also along a topographic transition below the Orangeburg Scarp, between the Middle and Lower Coastal Plains (ca. 15-meters to 30-meters amsl) (Murphy 1995). Such natural breaks on the landscape offer greater biodiversity than nearby terrain and served as natural cross-drainage passageways for both animals and humans. Likewise, adjacent physiographic zones were more difficult

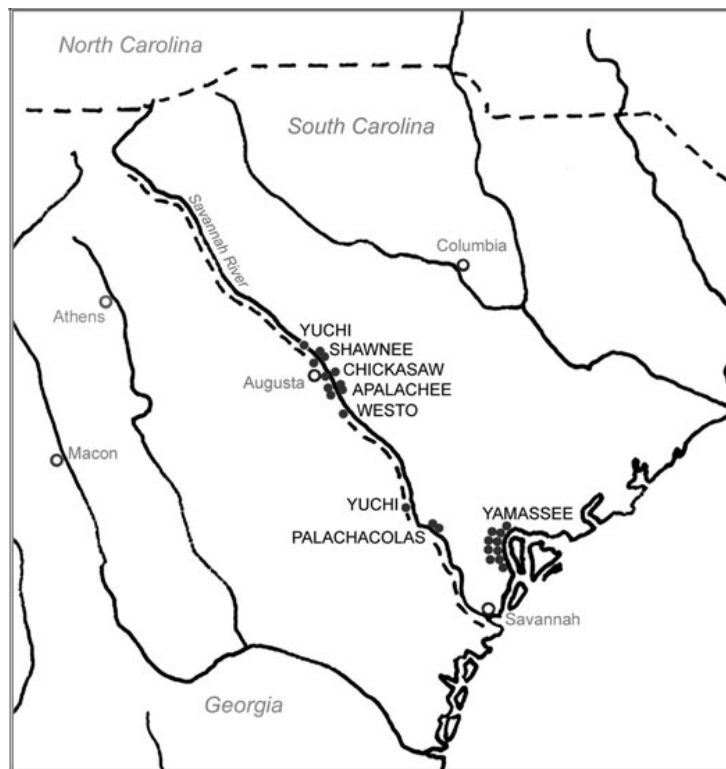


Figure 1: Primary locations of Colonial Native American towns on the Savannah and neighboring locales (after Cobb et al. 2012). (SCIAA map)

context of the six site clusters provide valuable insight into the character of the CSRA's Native American Colonial landscape. Perhaps most notable is the similar context of sites along floodplains within a few 100 meters of running water, a pattern that these "extra-local" groups that emigrated from other regions of eastern North America shared with their local prehistoric forebears (see Cabak et al. 1996; Sassaman et al. 1999). The

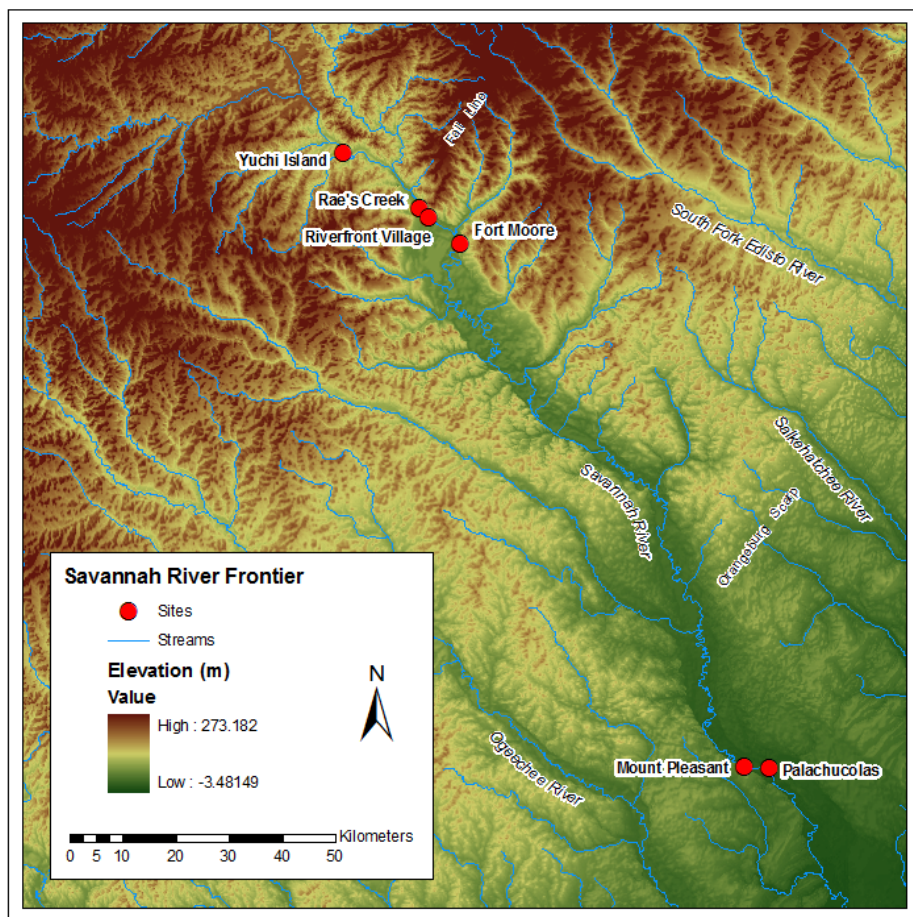


Figure 2: Colonial Native American site clusters of the Central Savannah River Area (late 17th-early 18th centuries). (SCIAA map)

to traverse, with the Piedmont to the northwest being a highly-dissected, hilly, and densely-forested landscape and the Lower Coastal Plain to the southeast being relatively flat topographically, but difficult to traverse due to the poorly-drained, unconsolidated soils of its broad, wet floodplains. As cultural pathways, there were also strategic advantages to placing settlements near the Fall Line and Coastal Plain Scarps, such as deterring incursions by Spanish-armed natives from points south. This strategic advantage would have served-well the security of both the Native and English populations of the region. From an economic perspective, these strategically located positions between the English and Spanish colonies would also have afforded the native communities the opportunity of trade with both parties. Critical trading paths to Charles Town are known to have traversed the two regions, one leading to Ft. Moore at Savannah Town and the other passing by Palachacolas Town. Thus, a complex array of ecological, political, and economic

factors account for the appearance of two major Native American site cluster concentrations during the Colonial era.

Much has been learned about the cultural landscape of the CSRA's Colonial Period Native Americans as a result of this research. Key observations of the existing archaeological site clusters and challenges for future research and fieldwork include: the low frequency and mobility of primary habitation sites exhibiting significant cultural materials, a lack of exposed native architecture or a visible built environment (e.g., earthworks), the low archaeological visibility of secondary / extractive cultural sites, the occupation of floodplain and adjacent environs with probable destruction of cultural remains by river meander and erosion, and a low overall archaeological visibility due to the temporally contracted / episodic nature of occupation. Such challenges are common in archaeological research here in South Carolina and elsewhere. Results of the project highlight the need for further archaeological research and fieldwork to

increase the current sample of six known archaeological site clusters. The low site numbers have prevented significant quantitative evaluation of the CSRA's Native American Colonial landscape and its development as an economic and strategic asset during this period. Further work is needed to build an improved and statistically-valid archaeological site sample to further explore the character of this dynamic frontier landscape!

### Acknowledgements

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## Meet Me at Tapp's—Underwater Archaeology on Display on Main Street

By James D. Spirek

If you lived, worked, and shopped downtown in Columbia during the last century, "Meet me at Tapp's" was an invitation to gather at Tapp's Department Store located at Main and Blanding Streets to shop or eat at the downstairs restaurant. On either street, the storefront housed a number of window display cases exhibiting merchandise and wares for sale at the store. Mannequins dressed in the latest styles, new appliances, and seasonal themes greeted and beckoned the shopper or diner into the store. But, like many inner city department stores in Southern cities, Tapp's fell on hard times, fueled by the decline of downtown as a shopping destination, and closed in the late 1990s. Passerby's on the sidewalk gazing into the window display cases that once showcased the vitality of consumerism, now simply saw reflections of themselves, passing cars, and adjacent buildings. Tapp's remained vacant for a number of years, although apartments created in the upper floors revitalized the building somewhat.

Recently, a new tenant has moved into the building, the Tapp's Art Center, catering to the visual and performing arts. Local artists rent studio space, display their work in the gallery, and hold special events. A unique feature of the art gallery is the opportunity for artists to present their work in the window display cases. Instead of empty cases, pedestrians are once again treated to window display exhibits, this time showcasing the work of local artists. A patron of the Tapp's Art Gallery and an Archaeological Research

Trust board member, William "Bill" Schmidt, thinking well outside the box and perhaps, as well as artistic bounds, approached the Maritime Research Division (MRD) about our interest in creating a window display case to reflect the maritime archaeological legacy in South Carolina. Ashley Deming and I jumped at the chance to create and install a display at the art gallery.

Working within the hot confines of the window display case, listening to snippets of arguments and conversations of people on cell phones, and smart-aleck remarks such as "Do you think he is art?" we persevered in installing a multi-level exhibit focusing on underwater archeology in South Carolina. Hanging from the ceiling, several enlarged photographs of the Turtle Island canoe, *H.L. Hunley*, and the Hilton Head Island wreck, and a line drawing of the *Malcolm Boat*, highlight several significant shipwrecks documented in state waterways. Another group of artifacts arranged on a pedestal, include several bottles, a cannonball, and

a swivel gun from a Revolutionary War shipwreck in the Cooper River. Along the floor, skillfully arranged to resemble a shipwreck site, are several ship timbers, ceramics, bottles, and other finds from local waters, including prehistoric artifacts and fossils. In a corner, dive equipment and recording gear, and a banner about the MRD round out the exhibit.

Installed in early September 2013, the temporary exhibit was removed in late November. We want to thank Bill Schmidt for the inspiration to create the exhibit, as well as for funding its three-month run, and Charlie Cobb for funds to prepare the exhibit, as well as the folks at the Tapp's Art Gallery for their assistance and willingness to see "art" in all its varied formats.



ART Board member, Bill Schmidt, standing in front of underwater display at Tapps on Main. (SCIAA photo)